

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

SCEM-02 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 INT-08 DRC-01

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R 091209Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 873

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 0088

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT L

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

UESOR/USINT CAIRO EGYPT 0011

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 00583

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : ENRG, QA

SUBJECT : QATAR REVIEWING PETROLEUM PRODUCTION

FOLLOWING FROM AMEMBASSY DOHA

1) QUOTE DURING COURTESY CALL BY ACTING CHARGE, QATAR'S DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM AFFAIRS, ALI JAIDAH, SAID HIS DEPARTMENT UNDERTAKING MAJOR REASSESSMENT OF PETROLEUM RESERVES AND PRODUCTION.

2) JAIDAH SAID THERE NO QUESTION ABOUT QATAR'S JOINING ANY MOVEMENT TO LIMIT PRODUCTION ON POLITICAL GROUNDS, SINCE QATAR'S PRODUCTION (APPROX HALF MILLION BPD) SO SMALL RELATIVE TO OTHERS. ANY DECISION TO LIMIT (OR EXPAND) PRODUCTION WILL BE TAKEN BASED SOLELY ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS. SAID THAT QATAR'S OPTIONS APPEAR TO RANGE BETWEEN 300,000 BPD AND 700,000 BPD, A SPREAD WHICH, THOUGH IMPORTANT TO QATAR, IS RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT IN WORLD-WIDE SCOPE. JAIDAH ADDED THAT COMPLETION OF CURRENT STUDY MAY JUST COINCIDE WITH ANY ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY SAUDI ARABIA OR OTHERS, BUT THAT THIS WOULD BE COINCIDENCE; QATAR'S ACTIONS, IF
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ANY, WOULD BE ECONOMICALLY, NOT POLITICALLY, MOTIVATED.

3) IT WIDELY BELIEVED IN DOHA THAT PRES SADAT'S RECENT SECRET VISIT TO QATAR WAS TO CONFIRM SHAIKH KHALIFA'S SUPPORT FOR ANY FUTURE COORDINATION ARAB OIL POLICY. IT FURTHER ASSUMED THAT THIS WAS MAJOR TOPIC OF CONVERSATION DURING VISIT LAST WEEK BY UAE PRES SHAIKH ZAYID.

4) WHILE MOST OF JAIDAH'S STATEMENT TO CHARGE APPARENTLY WAS A PARROTTING OF THE OFFICIAL LINE, IT SEEMS TRUE THAT MAJOR STUDY OF QATAR'S PETROLEUM RESERVES, FINANCIAL RESERVES AND FUTURE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY. THUS IT LIKELY THAT KHALIFA'S RESPONSE TO SADAT WAS ALONG LINES PARA TWO ABOVE. AS COMPROMISE, KHALIFA PROBABLY AGREED TO CONDUCT CURRENT STUDY AND TO COORDINATE TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT TO RESTRICT PRODUCTION, IF

THAT IS DECISION, WITH ANY SIMILAR ANNOUNCEMENT BY OTHER ARAB PRODUCING STATES. MACARTHUR UNQUOTE.
STARRETT

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